

## REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3-24 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the pending claims as follows. Claims 1-5, 10-12, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,246 (Cai). Claims 6-9, 13-17, and 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cai in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,648,970 (Kapoor).

Claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Cai teaches a method and an apparatus for inverse multiplexing a stream of asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) cells received from a high-bandwidth communication link over a plurality of low-bandwidth communication links. More particularly, Cai teaches performing transmission/reception operation over a plurality of low bandwidth communication links between ATM switches.

Kapoor teaches a system and a method for buffering out-of-sequence packets arriving from a lower service over a multi-path communication network

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Claim 1 has been amended and is further distinguished.

Cai teaches inverse multiplexing a stream of asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)

cells received over a high-bandwidth communication link using a load balancing algorithm and that ATM cells associated with a particular packet are transmitted over the same low-bandwidth communication link. This concept is better illustrated with reference to FIG. 3 of Cai where Cai teaches grouping ATM cells (130, 140, and 150) into associated packets (P1, P2, and P3, respectively) and then transmitting the packets P1, P2 and P3 each over a single link (as shown).

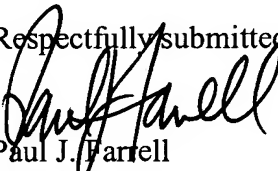
In contrast, amended Claim 1 includes the recitation of increasing the sequence number after transmitting the packet, which is neither taught nor suggested by Cai. Accordingly, as Cai does not teach or suggest determining whether a specific service uses at least two links, as recited in Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claims 10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), Claims 10 and 18 have been amended to include similar recitations as those contained in Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 10 and 18 are patentably distinct for at least the same reasons as set forth with respect to the rejection of Claim 1. Based on at least the forgoing, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 10 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 18, and 21 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-

12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19-20, and 22-24 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1 and 3-24, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
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